

VOL. XXXII. NO. 10,219.

## THE ASHANTEE WAR.

THE ASHANTEES DRIVEN ACROSS THE PRAIRIE.  
PROGRESS OF THE PURSUIT BY THE BRITISH.  
DISORDERLY FLIGHT OF THE ASHANTEES.  
PREPARATION FOR AN ADVANCE ON COUMASSIE.LONDON, Thursday, Jan. 1, 1874.  
Advice from Cape Coast Castle report that Sir Garnet Wolseley has advanced seventy miles into the interior. The Ashantees are flying before him.

LATER—Advice from Cape Coast Castle to Dec. 15 report that the Ashantees were driven across the River Praie, reëntering their own territory in great disorder. They left a large number of their dead and wounded on the bank of the river. Sir Garnet Wolseley was in pursuit with 500 sailors.

The troops ships Himalaya and Tamar had arrived at Cape Coast Castle, and everything was ready for an advance upon Coumassie.

The Gold Coast was very unhealthy.

LONDON, Friday, Jan. 2—5:30 a. m.

A special dispatch to The Daily Telegraph says 300 Ashantees were drowned in the River Praie in their flight before Sir Garnet Wolseley.

## SIEGE OF ABRA KRAMPA.

MARCHING TO THE AID OF THE GARRISON—CONDUCT OF THE FANTASIES.

[FROM THE SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

CAPE COAST CASTLE, Nov. 12.—I closed my last communication of Nov. 4 suddenly, for the new arrival that the position at Abra Krampa had been attacked by the Ashantees; that, although beaten back, they had renewed the attack at nightfall, and that fighting was still going on. The news arrived here in the middle of the night, and although it was firmly believed that Major Russell could hold his position, still, as the whole Ashantee army was concentrated in front of him, it was considered advisable to march at once to his relief. Orders were accordingly sent on board ship for the embarkation of 300 marines and sailors. These were ashore by 5:30, and at 6 o'clock were on the march, accompanied by Sir Garnet Wolseley and his staff.

The heat was overpowering; the sun blazed down with its rays untempered by a breath of wind, and during the first four or five miles of the march there was scarcely any shade whatever. The consequences were not long in showing themselves. Many men fell out from the ranks on their march, or were unable to rise after the halts. Before the village, which is situated about midway between Cape Coast and Assabur, was reached, 70 men out of the 300 had fallen out. The halt here was a welcome relief; but, by the time that they reached Assabur, not more than 200 at most were in a condition to proceed. Here, however, there was a halt for two hours and a half. The men had chocolate and preserved meats served out to them, and long ere the expiration of the halt almost all the stragglers came in. Fifty marines, who formed the garrison of Assabur, were ordered to march to Kuteana, a village two miles further upon the road. It was from this village that the path which was to be followed branched off, for the direct and much shorter path from Assabur to Abra Krampa was in the hands of the enemy, and it was desirable, if possible, to arrive without the enemy knowing that reinforcements were on the way, or at any rate without his knowing the extent and nature of those reinforcements.

While at Assabur we could occasionally hear the faint sounds of distant firing, and were told that it had begun again at 11 in the morning. One hundred and fifty of the freshest of the marines and sailors were picked out, and now that it was known that fighting was going on, nearly the whole of the 300 renewed their willingness to go on, and declared themselves perfectly recovered by their halt. However, only 150 were taken, the others remaining behind to garrison Assabur in case the enemy should fall back by the road through that village. At a little before 8 o'clock the selected band started, and were joined at Kuteana by the 50 marines who had gone on from Assabur, and by 50 men of the West Indian Regiment who had come down from Akrofof to meet us. The King of Abra was also there with some twenty of his men, he having come out from Abra Krampa to inform us that the road was clear, and to offer his escort to Sir Garnet. King Abia was one of the best of the native kings. He is not a very powerful monarch; but he can put 700 or 800 men into the field, and although, like the other Fantee tribes, they can lay no claim whatever to being heroes, still they are really brave men by the side of these Cape Coast warriors. The King himself is the tallest native I have seen; indeed he tops most of his people by a full head, being six feet three inches high. He is thin, and by no means broad in proportion to his height. He has a pleasant face with a quiet, gentle expression. He fought well at the great battle in the Spring, which ended in the overthrow of the entire Fantee army. He marches lightly carrying a symbol of office.

Throughout our march the sound of a heavy and well-tempered infantry fire grew louder and louder, until, as we neared the camp, it appeared so close that those in the rear of the little column thought that their comrades in front were badly engaged. Every one grasped his rifle and kept his eyes upon the bushes upon either side. No shot came, however, and we presently emerged from the wood at about 30 yards from the beleaguered place. A heavy fire was kept up against it from three sides, the place being only open on the side by which we had entered. Sir Garnet Wolseley was received at the entrance to the village by Major Russell, the commandant. This officer is a typical specimen of the English cavalry officer. He stands six feet in his stockings, with broad shoulders and active frame. He wears his cheeks and chin closely shaved, even here, where every one else has laid aside his razors. He has a hearty, genial, I may almost say jovial manner, and is an unreserved favorite with both officers and men. He is a strict disciplinarian, and is the terror of the cowardly natives under him. He is Major in the 9th Hussars, one of the crack regiments of English cavalry. He expressed himself delighted at the arrival of Sir Garnet with his reinforcements, although the position had not been really seriously attacked, owing to the Ashantees being unable to screw their courage up to the point required for a general rush. The anxiety was necessarily very great, as the village was an extensive one, and the troops had all been in their places, expecting an attack for twenty-four hours. Sir Garnet thanked Major Russell for the manner in which he had conducted the defense, and in which he had, with only a few wounded on his side, kept at bay the whole Ashantee army.

All this time a deafening fire of musketry was kept up, and we made for the center of the village, when the men were all told off to the different native houses. The men who had been so long upon watch were relieved by the new comers, and as dark came on the fire slackened, and by nine o'clock, save for an occasional dropping shot, the place was as quiet as if no enemy had been within a hundred miles of us. I have described Abra Krampa in a previous letter, and need only repeat that it is of the form of an irregular triangle, the church, which forms the apex, standing upon the highest ground, and its fire a great extent covering two sides of the village. The whole ground around had been cleared to a distance of fully 20 yards, so that the enemy would have to advance across that distance of open ground before reaching the nearest house. This proved the safety of the place, for there was no doubt that, had the Ashantees been able to approach close to it, that their heavy fire of slugs could have silenced the fire of the garrison at any point, they could have carried the whole village at a rush, save only the church, which, occupied as it was by 50 sailors and marines, could have held out against the whole Ashantee army for an indefinite time. As it was, the Ashantees were neither able to make a rush across the intervening space, nor to do any material injury to the garrison with their fire from the edge of the bush, for their guns only fired point blank at 40 yards, and the slugs, although they may wound, will not penetrate deeply at over fifty. Consequently, although from the way in which they fire high, the rain of slugs which flew over or fell into the town was tremendous, very few of the garrison had been hit, and the only man seriously injured was a sailor, who was struck in the eye by a spent slug.

In the mean time the enemy had suffered heavily. The heavy balls of the British rifles had searched the whole bush, and the green foliage, from behind which the Ashantees had fired, had proved but a poor protection against such missiles as these. Whenever three or four fellows braver than the rest had advanced beyond the edge of the bush, calling upon the others to follow them, they were shot down in a minute after they had ventured out by a storm of bullets, while occasionally a round of grape was fired from the little gun on the top of the church; or a rocket went whizzing out into the bush, doing, as we learned from prisoners, immense damage. Once or twice, when the Ashantees crept up behind the edge of a rounded slope commanding one side of the village, the West Indians charged them boldly and drove them headlong into the bush. Such had been the state of things before our arrival; it was evident, by the slackening of their fire, that they knew that reinforcements had arrived. During the night everything was quiet, and the next morning nearly 1,000 of our native allies from this town, the greatest cowardly probably who ever drew breath, also entered the camp. During the morning there was a slight exchange of fire with some of the enemy who had again crept up the slope; but at noon the West Indians were advanced and held this position.

The Cape Coast men were ordered at 2 o'clock to advance into the bush to feel the enemy. It was well known that they would not fight, but it was hoped that the Ashantees would attack them in force, and would, in the ardor of pursuit, follow them into the open space, and so be exposed to the fire of the white troops who lay under shelter in readiness to give them a warm reception. The Cape Coast men, however, were even more cowardly than we had imagined, for they absolutely refused to enter the bush. The Kossos, a hundred strong, were therefore sent to drive them in. These Kossos are a singular tribe who live north of Sierra Leone. They refuse to carry firearms, preferring to trust to the sword. They are great at night surprises. At once the Kossos went to their work, and with shouts, aided by whacks with the flats of their swords, they drove the Cape Coast men inside the bush. Once inside, the shouting was tremendous, the Kossos trying to drive the Fantees forward, the latter refusing to budge an inch, although their drums beat and bugles sounded with immense energy. At the end of a couple of hours they were still within 300 yards of the place from which they had started, and as no attack had been made upon them, it became probable that the Ashantees had fallen back.

Capt. Bromhead of the 24th Regiment was ordered, therefore, to take some of King Abia's men and to endeavor to push forward into the camp of the enemy. This he did at a run, and upon entering, he was fired at by five or six Ashantees who alone remained, and who after firing at once took to flight. News being sent back to the General, the Houses under Lieut. Gordon started for the Ashantee village, a mile beyond their camp. This was found similarly deserted, and Lieut. Gordon pushed on for another half mile. It was growing dusk, and, having been several times fired at from the bush, he retired to the village. The place itself and the whole road testified to the fact of a sudden and intense panic. Furniture, clothing, and even arms were everywhere strewn about. Cooking pots were still simmering over the fires, and although no doubt the bulk of the army had marched early, a great many had remained behind, believing themselves safe until scared by the wild shouting in the bush made by the Fantees and Kossos. A good many of the Fantee slaves made their escape in the confusion and were brought in; some were handcuffed, others manacled to logs, and all were in a state of semi-starvation. Among them were several women.

The next morning the native levies, the Cape Coast men, the Kossos, the Houses, and the King of Abia's men, started in pursuit, some on the direct line of retreat, others to head off the enemy, twenty miles distant. The Governor, with the greater portion of the white troops, marched down again to the coast, where the sailors and marines were at once embarked. Twenty-four hours afterward we learned that the native allies had come up with the enemy's rear, and had, after a skirmish of an hour, fallen back. Many of them behaved exceedingly bad, and many continued their retreat until they reached this place. Since that time the police have been busy hunting up these fugitives. Their arms are seized, and they themselves are marched under an escort to be put to work upon the roads. The women of this town are much afflicted at the cowardice of their men, and the wives of some of their principal men have, for the last two days, been going about the town calling upon the women to show that they appreciate the efforts which the white men are making to defend them from the Ashantees, by coming forward and offering to carry loads up into the interior. "The men," they said, "have disgraced themselves; let us do our best to wipe out the disgrace they have brought upon our town." These appeals were responded to by two or three hundred women, and it is hoped that many more will present themselves, for they are much more trustworthy than the men; and, as there must be some thousands here, they could, if they came forward earnestly and heartily, do a great deal to relieve the British army of its difficulties in the way of transport. The women work well together; they come in as they start in a compact body, while the men, upon the other hand, straggle in anyhow, and not a few stop at the roadside stations, pretend illness, and declare that it is quite impossible that they can carry their loads any further.

The transport question is an all important one for the British army. Up to the Praie it is intended that a road wide enough for four men to march abreast with comfort shall be made. Huts are to be erected at each camping ground, capable of containing 400 men, so that the troops can march up in parties of that strength, day after day, and find shelter at each halting place. Beyond the Praie, which is about the half way point, being about eighty miles alike from Coumassie and from the coast, the real hardship of the expedition will begin. No tents will be carried beyond this river, and each officer will have one man allotted to him to carry his bed, cooking utensils, waterproof sheets, blankets, clothes, and such little comforts in the way of a bottle of brandy or two, a tin of chocolate and milk and a few pots of Liebig's meat essence. This last will be greatly needed, for there can be no fresh meat served out. Salt meat is very good food for a hungry man in a temperate climate, but in the tropics one's appetite requires a little tempting, and an exhausted man is little inclined for salt pork. The correspondents of the Press are to be on the same footing as the officers; such at least is the present arrangement; but I hope that some slight modification will be made in our favor, for it will be almost impossible to sit down in the open air to write a letter. Lying upon the ground is an unpleasant thing in a country where all the ground is covered with thick bush, which has been only just cleared to make way for the camp. Stumps stick up in all directions like bayonets, and insects, enraged at the disturbance of their usual haunts, wander about in all directions and bite everything and everybody they may meet.

The ants especially are continually upon the prowl, and their bite is like a spark of fire dropping upon the skin. Altogether, what with constant and severe fighting by day, uncomfortable nights, food unshared to the climate, and no liquors excepting tea made with bad water, I do not think we shall altogether have a pleasant time of it beyond the Praie.

Nov. 15.—There has been a general feeling of uneasiness here, owing to Sir Garnet Wolseley's having had a slight attack of fever. Happily, however, he is improving, and will, it is hoped, be able to resume work in a few days. Any serious illness upon the part of the General would be a grievous blow to the expedition. He is at present upon the Simoom, hospital ship. We have been having some heavy rains here during the last few days. These are called the "little rains." They do not extend far into the country, and, as a general rule, appear to make the atmosphere closer instead of clearer. This morning, however, is an exception to this rule; for we had a heavy rain just before daylight, and there is now a cool, pleasant breeze. In a short time we shall have a cold, dry wind, which comes over the desert, where it leaves its moisture behind it, but picks up so large a quantity of fine dust that the air here is quite thick with it. The natives detect this wind, for it dries up and cracks their skin, and even causes bleeding at the nose, and is not infrequently accompanied by fever. Europeans have been out here for some time also find it disagreeably cold and bracing; but to new comers from England it is both pleasant and healthy, and while it lasts, they may consider themselves proof against both malarial fever and dysentery—the two scourges of the Coast.

Nothing of interest has occurred during the last three days, except that the King and Chief of Cape Coast have agreed with the authorities here that all able-bodied men are to be able to service either as fighting men or laborers. They have accordingly drawn up a sort of decree to this effect, which, although not perhaps a strictly legal document, is a justification to the military authorities in carrying out steps which are no doubt strong, but which are absolutely necessary. The police were accordingly at work all yesterday seizing every able-bodied man and taking him to the Castle, where, in the afternoon, they were loaded and sent up country under an escort. The town all day was in an uproar; the police pushed their search into the houses, broke down doors, and carried on exciting chases over the roofs of the houses. Every man they came across was seized, and I had to make several trips to the Castle to get my servants and hammock hands, who were continually being captured. At last I obtained official papers from the police officer, and although this did not exempt them from being seized, for few of the police can read, they were released as soon as they reached the Castle. The search continues to-day. Sir Garnet Wolseley remains sick on board ship. Commander Hewitt has arrived and assumed the naval command. The Ashantees are still retreating.

## WASHINGTON.

BARON SCHWARZ-SENBORN'S APPOINTMENT.  
HIS APPOINTMENT AS MINISTER OF THE AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN EMPIRE AT WASHINGTON MADE WITH REFERENCE TO THE CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION—THE BARON'S EXPERIENCE AS A DIPLOMAT AND OFFICER OF THE WORLD'S FAIR.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.—The reported appointment of Baron Schwarz-Senborn as the Minister of the Austro-Hungarian Empire to this country, if made, is no doubt in reference to the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition, in which position he exhibited remarkable ability, making the enterprise a notable success in the face of difficulties and embarrassments such as no previous World's Fair encountered. The Austrian Government, no doubt, wishes to make his experience and talent of use in this country, to secure a creditable exhibition of the manufactures of the empire at Philadelphia. Both Austria and Hungary have made remarkable progress in the industrial arts since the Government was liberalized in 1866, and the statement of the dual empire that have replaced the old centralized despotism, are wisely seeking enlarged commercial relations with other countries. Heretofore, the chief trade with the United States has been in the dress-buttons, meerschaum pipes, and fancy leather goods made in Vienna, and the glassware of Bohemia. The wines of Hungary have also been exported to this country, but only to a limited extent. A great variety of articles is now manufactured in the empire which do not come into competition with our own products, and which the Centennial Exhibition will afford an opportunity of introducing to our markets. Many of these are articles of dress and household ornament which fairly rival those produced in France. Baron Schwarz-Senborn has served in important diplomatic capacities in Europe, and has besides made the organization of World's Fairs a special study. If he comes, the Centennial Commissioners will, no doubt, profit greatly by his experience.

NEW-YEAR'S RECEPTIONS.  
THE RECEPTIONS OF THE PRESIDENT AND CABINET MINISTERS—BRILLIANT APPEARANCE OF THE EXECUTIVE MANSION.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.—The Executive Mansion never presented a more brilliant appearance than it did to-day. The East Room has been beautified in all its features, and the furniture is entirely new. The Blue Room has also been retouched, both as to the walls and the furniture, and is regarded as one of the handsomest drawing-rooms in the country. The Mansion was opened for the reception of visitors at 11 o'clock, when President and Mrs. Grant took their positions in the Blue Room, and were assisted by Secretary, Mrs. and Miss Fish; Secretary, Mrs. and Miss Richardson; Secretary of War and Mrs. Belknap; Secretary of the Navy and Mrs. Benson; Attorney-General and Mrs. Williams; Postmaster-General and Mrs. Croswell; Mrs. Senator Conkling; Mrs. Barnes and Mr. and Mrs. Tilden; Marshal Sharpe, and Gen. Hancock participated in the presentation ceremony.

The Diplomatic Corps were first received. There was a full representation of Ministers, with their respective secretaries and attaches, accompanied by ladies. Sir Edward Thornton took precedence in the presentation, being the Dean or senior Minister Plenipotentiary of the Corps, his credentials antedating all others. The Ministers, with few exceptions, were in full Court dress. After the Diplomatic Corps took their leave, the Justices of the Supreme Court, Justice Clifford in the advance, were received by the President and his party, and, extending about 40 and more blue badges. Next came the members of the Grand National Association, with badges. At 1 o'clock the doors were opened to the public, and from that hour to 3 p. m. a continuous throng of citizens called and shook hands with the President. The Marine Band, posted in the main vestibule, furnished the music.

The callers to-day upon the Cabinet Ministers embraced, as usual, the Judges of the United States Supreme Court, members of the Diplomatic Corps, the General of the Army and staff, and officers of the army and navy generally in Washington; heads of Bureaus in the different Departments of the Government, and personal friends and acquaintances. There were numerous other recipients by Government officers and private citizens both in Washington and Georgetown.

## CUBAN AFFAIRS.

INTELLIGENCE FROM HAVANA.

AMERICAN NAVAL OFFICERS IN THE LOUVRE—CHIEF-MAINS EVER CELEBRATIONS—PROCLAMATION OF GEN. BURNHAM—THE SEARCH FOR THE MISSING CORRESPONDENT.

[FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

HAVANA, Dec. 27.—The political situation in Havana remains unchanged. There is a great dearth of news from the interior, both sides apparently resting from the prosecution of the civil war, which has devastated so much of the island. The military officers at Havana are engaged in discussing the best measures for the suppression of the rebellion, but they are much further now from satisfactory results than they were four or five years ago, when the rebellion first sprang into life. If there have been any engagements, the Spanish authorities have, as usual, suppressed the news, and from Cuban sources it is difficult to obtain facts, as their interior correspondents are obliged to use such tedious modes of transmission that it takes weeks and often months to communicate intelligence. Since the defeat of the Cazadores de Valmaceda and the death of Col. Vilches, no intelligence of an interesting character has arrived here from the Cuban army. The changes in the Administration and the dissensions which exist in the agencies and juntas of the North are not regarded favorably by such of the Cubans as care to express their views, even to an American. While, as a matter of course, the Cuban people inwardly rejoice at the victories of their associates, outwardly they maintain an exceedingly quiet appearance, avoiding anything like ostentation, shunning conspicuous gatherings, and generally seeking to make themselves as little obnoxious as possible to the Spanish element which so largely predominates in this city.

The Americans have not forgotten the peculiar condition of affairs of the last few weeks, and while they attend to their business with characteristic regularity, they are averse to entering into large contracts on extended time, as the situation is liable to change at any moment, and from comparative tranquillity we may be ushered into most sanguinary revolution. One of the most interesting events of the week has been the arrival of the fleet dispatch boat Pinta, Capt. Goringe. The novel spectacle of an American vessel of war in the port of Havana caused some talk, and a great deal of attention was directed toward the vessel. The officers, in full uniform, landed on the pier, and separating, pursued the various objects which had brought them to the port. At first it was thought that there might be some prejudice exhibited against them, but all passed without the slightest demonstration, except that of surprise and curiosity. In passing the Captain-General's palace and other public buildings where the Volunteers were on guard, and a large number were seated in conversation, there was a very general raising, and a most graceful salute made by the Volunteers, which was politely returned by the officers of the Pinta. At the Louvre, the famous café which has been the scene of so much intrigue and political demagogism, the officers were not as gracefully noticed. At this place the officers of the Spanish army and navy are accustomed to congregate, as indeed all the Havanees. There were many Spanish officers of both branches of the service; but there was no salutation, only a gaze of mingled curiosity and sullenness. To the civilians they were subject of considerable attention, and formed the main topic of conversation. By some chance, after entering, the American officers had taken seats in what is known as the "Spanish corner," and the other frequenters of the café thought that there was some method in their selection of seats. But no incident occurred to mar the general harmony of the evening.

The uncertainty attending the political situation and the dangers to which large congregations of people give rise have prevented anything like the cordial observance of Christmas Day here that is characteristic of the day in the North. On Christmas eve the streets are filled with groups of dangerous men of all nations, principally Cubans, Spaniards, negroes, mulattoes, and Chinese, who play guitars, tambourines, castanets, and other musical instruments. At midnight they are intoxicated, and heaven help the man who falls into their clutches. From midnight until daylight they congregate in the park before the Tacón, where they dance and shriek and make night hideous. This year Noche Buena, as it is called here, has been anticipated with much apprehension by the better class of people. The guards are doubled and mounted patrols scour the streets, and other precautions were taken. It is for this that I have not to chronicle a series of dreadful crimes. In the evening there were, in the churches, services under the name of la misa del gallo, known in the North among the Roman Catholics as Midnight Mass.

Intelligence has reached here that the Edgar Stewart, fitting out in the North, is intended for the Cuban service. Whether this is true or not, it is generally reported that the Tornado, which left this port some days ago, has received orders to pursue the Stewart and, if she proves to be of the same character as the Virginias, not to take her, but to sink her wherever found. The commander of the Department of Santiago, Gen. Barriel, has issued an order condoning with his men upon the delivery of the Virginias and the surrender of the prisoners, but felicitating them upon the manner in which they obeyed the instructions of their superiors. He still remains at Santiago, and will probably not go to Spain for some time to come.

Much regret has been expressed by the American colony in Havana at the mysterious disappearance of Mr. Ralph Keeler, the correspondent of THE TRIBUNE, at Santiago. Mr. Keeler left Santiago about the time of the transfer of the prisoners from that place to Cienfuegos, and took passage on board the steamer Cienfuegos. The vessel arrived at Manzanillo with Mr. Keeler's baggage, but he was not on board. It is not known here whether Mr. Keeler started with the vessel and was lost overboard, or whether he was left behind and met with foul treatment in Santiago. At first it was supposed that he had simply missed a steamer; but now the gravest apprehensions are entertained. Beyond the fact of his disappearance, no other positive information is known. The officials are making inquiry, and it is hoped that something will be learned as to his disappearance. Although only a very short time in Havana, he had made many friends, all of whom are very sorry to learn of his disappearance.

CAPT. PATTERSON AND THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

A NOTE FROM THE ALLEGED OWNER OF THE VIRGINIAS.

To the Editor of The Tribune.  
Sir: Permit me to set myself right before the public by the statement of a few plain facts. The issue between the Attorney-General and myself was not of my seeking. He forced it upon me when he wrote and had published thereon otherwise than to hold upon this evidence that Patterson's oath was false, and that the registry obtained in his name was a fraud upon the Navigation laws of the United States.

I met this accusation as directly and explicitly as I could. But I do know and do assure you that any testimony that I was not the true and sole owner of the Virginias at the time when she was registered, is utterly false; for I did not swear falsely, but truly, when I took the oath necessary to obtain her registry as an American vessel, and of this I remain certain, notwithstanding the Attorney-General has decided that he "cannot do otherwise than to hold" to the contrary.

The words of the statute which it is said I violated are the words of the law. I did never in these very words, and the Attorney-General "decided" that I swore falsely when I did so. I met that decision by

averring the truth of that oath. I am not a skilled writer, but it seems to me that my avowment was the case fully, and it did not occur to me that I should have recited the oath in full when I averred its truth, in order to escape the charge of evasion.

It is also asked why I did not give securities when I signed my bonds. If the Attorney-General had asked any Custom-house broker, he would have been informed that the Collector, in a great majority of cases, does not require securities. The Collector did not ask any of me. If he had, I would have given them. I did not ask to be excused, and the business was done by a broker in the usual way. If the want of securities proves a want of title or a false oath, as the Attorney-General thinks it does, then I say that most vessels carrying our flag are not owned by those who paid for them, for in most cases there are no securities.

My letter is said to be "impudent." Has it come to this that an American citizen, conscious of his own innocence, must piously submit to be publicly branded as a perjurer by the Attorney-General, and make so reply? Is it possible that any man thinks that I ought to have submitted to be branded for nothing denying it, if I could truly deny it? And do you think that the Attorney-General had a right to pronounce judgment on me without a hearing, because Spain furnished him with affidavits which I had no opportunity to see or contradict, whose only object was to prove that I had sworn falsely. Some seem to think that because the United States had agreed with Spain to dispense with a salute if Spain could "prove to the satisfaction" of the United States that the Virginias was not entitled to carry the flag, therefore the Attorney-General was bound to be satisfied with the affidavits which Spain furnished him without taking the trouble to ask whether the person charged with crime had been heard in its own defense. Would an English Attorney-General, for example, have permitted a foreign government to convict an Englishman of perjury by *ex parte* affidavits which, it true, at the same time convicted his government of gross neglect, the very neglect which he was charged with? The government at once did all that I could have asked it then to do; and for anything that I could know, but I do not flatter myself that any comments of mine could have made them less satisfactory to the Attorney-General than they were found to be. I could only have repeated my oath, and unless I could have been permitted to confront and cross-examine the witnesses, I would have been no better off than I am now. Very respectfully,  
JOHN F. PATTERSON.  
New-York, Dec. 27, 1873.

## A SURVIVOR FROM THE SANTIAGO MASCARE.

Capt. Gratz, who was reported among the victims of Santiago, wishes it known that he has escaped the fate which *La Cronista* assigned to him. He describes the condition of the prison at Santiago de Cuba as incredibly offensive. He could not sleep during the period of his incarceration there in consequence of the stench which he inserted himself into every part of his clothing, and in doing that, secured, as he said, no peace by day or night. Capt. Gratz has just left the hospital, and has undergone a serious operation upon his mouth, the jaw-bone having become diseased and all the teeth loosened by the terrible effects of malaria and hardship. He ascribes his escape to the timely interference of Capt. Lorraine of the English ship Niobe.

## GENERAL FOREIGN NEWS.

THE VILLE DU HAYRE DISASTER.  
CAPT. BURMONT'S THEORY OF THE COLLISION—THE LOOKOUT ON THE VILLE DU HAYRE—THE CHARGE OF COWARDICE.

LONDON, Thursday, Jan. 1, 1874.

The investigation into the Ville du Hayre disaster was continued to-day. A deposition from Capt. Burmont was read. He attributes the collision to a lack of judgment in steering both vessels.

A deposition was read from the man who was on the lookout on board the steamship, declaring that he saw no lights on the Loch Earn until after the collision occurred. He also says the Loch Earn did not alter her course at all.

The carpenter's apprentice of the Loch Earn reiterated the story that the mate of the latter vessel threatened to fire upon the Frenchmen because of their refusal to aid in the rescue of their comrades. He also testified to the dryness of Capt. Burmont's clothing when he came on board the ship.

THE REPUBLIC OF SPAIN.

EXPLOSION AT CARTAGENA—EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT A RECONCILIATION BETWEEN CASTELLAR AND SALMERON.

MADRID, Thursday, Jan. 1, 1874.

On Tuesday night a shell from the besieging battery set fire to the insurgent iron-clad Tetuan in the harbor of Cartagena. After burning for three hours the fire reached the magazine, which exploded with tremendous force, damaging the vessel seriously.

The deputies to the Cortes are endeavoring to reconcile the differences between Salmeron and President Castelar.

Marcelo Serrano is endeavoring to secure the removal of Gen. Moriones from the command of the Republican forces in Cordova.

The Government has suppressed several newspapers of Federal proclivities.

MORE COMMUNISTS CONDEMNED TO DEATH.

VERMILLES, Thursday, Jan. 1, 1874.  
The court-martial sitting for the trial of Communists has condemned six more of them to death, four being in contumacy.

FOREIGN NOTES.

Mr. Evans, proprietor of The London Hour, is dead.

Specie in the Bank of England has increased during the week £492,000.

A NEW-HAMPSHIRE DEFEALCATION.

THE TREASURER OF A CONCORD SAVINGS BANK MISAPPROPRIATES OVER \$50,000.

BOSTON, Jan. 1.—An irregularity in connection with the National Savings Bank of Concord, N. H., is announced. The Treasurer, W. W. Storrs, having misappropriated \$50,000. On Friday last, while the trustees were looking over the notes and papers, the Treasurer confessed that there was a deficiency in his account, this being the first intimation the officers had received. The Treasurer stated that for the past three years he had repeatedly loaned the funds of the bank to Robert S. Webster, who had been largely engaged in lumber operations in Ellensburg, N. Y., and had become greatly embarrassed. His bondsmen were promptly informed of the defealcation, and have been in session every day since endeavoring to locate the funds. His bonds are either \$50,000 or \$125,000, and his sureties, 25 in number, are all sound men, representing largely the business wealth of Concord. These bonds secure the depositors from all loss on Storrs's account. The institution has deposits amounting to about \$1,250,000. The President is George A. Pillsbury of Concord. The business of the bank will be in no manner interrupted by the Treasurer's defealcation. Storrs states that his position as cashier of the First National Bank and Treasurer of the savings bank enabled him to carry the accounts unknown to any of the officials of either institution.

CONCORD, N. H., Jan. 1.—There was great excitement here this forenoon over the National Savings Bank defealcation, which was not generally known until 10 o'clock, when depositors had gathered in a large group in front of the bank building, waiting to get a dividend which it had been announced would be paid to-day.

When the doors were opened they were surprised at being told that no payments could be made at present. The officers stated that they had made preparations to pay off about 25 per cent of the depositors to-day, but that John D. Lyman, one of the State Bank Commissioners, requested that no portion of the deposits be paid out until he could make an official examination of the institution. The officers further stated that they had in the vault, in cash, in readiness to be paid out nearly \$250,000. This explanation satisfied the more reasonable of the depositors. Some of them were, however, very fearful that matters were worse than was generally believed, and they began to offer their books at 25 cents on the dollar, but calmer depositors dissuaded them from making any such rash bargains. At noon, the bank closed its doors as usual, and soon afterward the crowd dispersed.

## THE GENEVA AWARD.

PLANS FOR ITS DISTRIBUTION.

THE BILLS OF MEMBERS EDMUNDS, POLAND, AND BUTLER—OBJECTIONS URGED AGAINST EACH—PROPOSITION TO COVER THE ENTIRE AWARD INTO THE TREASURY.

[FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.—Fifteen and a-half millions of dollars lying in the Treasury invested in Five per cent bonds, about eighteen million dollars of claims filed in the State Department, and three bills pending in Congress providing for the distribution of the Award, but neither of them advanced beyond preliminary consideration in committees—this is the position of the Geneva Award question to-day. Beside the \$18,000,000 claimed by private parties, the Government is, or may be, a claimant for an almost indefinite sum for expenses incurred in chasing the rebel cruisers and protecting our commerce from their depredations. Congress must determine who is entitled to participate in the award, or must create a tribunal to determine the question, or authorize some court to do so; and if Congress itself determines by law what classes of claimants shall be admitted, it must provide some method by which the evidence of their claims may be examined, and their cases heard and adjudicated. Until it does so, no portion of the award can be touched: It was invested in the new Five per cents as soon as received, in compliance with a law passed last Winter when it was found that there was not time enough before the end of the session to settle the question of its final position. The questions growing out of the award were at that time scarcely discussed at all in either House, but were very generally canvassed in the newspapers, particularly that of the validity of the claims of insurance companies, which was asserted and denied by different journals with a formidable show of argument and citations of law and precedent. The bills now pending differ widely as to the principles to govern the distribution and the method of making it.

The bill of Senator Edmunds creates a Court of five Judges, to be called the "Court of Commissioners of Alabama Claims," to be appointed by the President, to sit in Washington, and to hear and determine all cases within one year, unless the President prolongs the time six months. The Judges are to have \$5,000 a year salary, the Clerk of the Court \$3,000, and the Reporter \$2,500. The Court is to receive and examine all claims admissible under the bill directly resulting from damage caused by the Alabama, Florida and their tenders, and also by the Shenandoah after her departure from Melbourne on February 18, 1865; and to decide upon the amount and validity of such claims according to the principles of law and the merits of the several cases. No claim is to be admissible for loss for which insurance has been received, unless the insurance did not equal the amount of the loss, in which case allowance may be made for the difference. No claim for constructive damages is to be entertained, or for wages for officers and seamen for a longer time than one year after the breaking up of a voyage. All claims of insurance companies are barred, unless it be proven that during the Rebellion the sum of a company's losses, in respect to its war risks, exceeded the sum of its premiums on such risks; in such cases an allowance may be made for the excess. Claims on account of disloyal persons or insurance companies not lawfully organized under the laws of some one of the United States, are not admissible. Interest at four per cent is to be allowed from the date the loss was sustained. The Court is to certify the judgments to the Secretary of State, who is to report them to the Treasury, and the Secretary is to pay 55 per cent of the principal of the judgments and the whole of the interest allowed, and retain five per cent. If the sum of all the judgments exceeds the amount of the award, a pro rata distribution is to be made. Nothing is said in the bill about the claim of the United States, and it is probable that the five per cent retained would be all the Government could get under it. The principal objections to the bill are, first, that it creates an expensive tribunal to do the work; second, that the members of the Court would, in all probability, be politicians in favor with the President, but with no special fitness for their duties; and third, that all the claimants would have to bring their cases to Washington, where the horde of claim-agents would reap a rich harvest at their expense.

The bill of Representative Poland of Vermont creates no special tribunal, but puts the business in the hands of such Circuit Court as the President shall select. The Attorney-General is to file a bill in equity in the Court so selected, in the nature of a bill of interpleader, setting forth the amount of the award claimed by the Government and the facts and grounds of its claim. All persons or corporations who have filed claims against the award in the State Department are to be named as defendants, and such persons or corporations as shall appear and make claims within six months after the filing of the bill shall also be defendants. The claims of all persons who do not enter an appearance within six months are to be forever barred. Claimants may file evidence in opposition to the claim of the United States. If any claim exceeding \$5,000 is disallowed, the claimant may appeal to the Supreme Court, and if any such claim is disallowed the United States may appeal, or if a claim is allowed to the United States in excess of such sum, any claimant may in like manner appeal. The cases so appealed are to take precedence of all other cases in the Supreme Court. The claims allowed the United States are to have priority and be first paid. The other claims are to be paid in full within six months, with five per cent interest from the date of the rendering of final judgment, in case there is money enough left of the award; if not, then a pro rata distribution is to be made. The objections to Judge Poland's bill come chiefly from the claimants, who say that under it the Government would be pretty certain to get the lion's share of the award. It is further objected that the court might allow